

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Yugoslavia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Organisation and Activities of the Party Cell in the Federation of Communists of Yugoslavia	DATE DISTR.	22 September 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information	

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The cell is the basic Party organization of the Federation of Communists of Yugoslavia (FCY) in the enterprises, factories, schools, villages and wards. All Yugoslav Communists belong to an organization of this sort. The cell elects its secretary and deputy who in turn direct the activities of the cell. Open meetings take place once a month and non-members are allowed to attend. There are also secret meetings which are attended only by members. Most of the meetings are concerned with discussing and accepting various orders and directives sent from above, although local problems are also aired. In factories and enterprises the cell is the political and ideological center and its decisions affecting production or certain phases of the public life of the laborer are carried out through the cell members who also belong to the workers councils or similar groups.
2. Other than through the press and official speeches, the Party line is propagated through Party channels from the Executive Committee of the FCY down to the basic Party cell. Problems, instructions and discussion topics are decided at the top level and then are sent down to the republic, city and district committees, and finally down to the cell itself. A meeting is then called and the secretary presents the matter at hand to the different members of the cell. The local secretary directs the discussion pertaining to the matter. After the discussion, the secretary presents the ready-made solution sent down from the top level and it is then

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unanimously approved. Objections are asked for, but there never are any, because disagreement is considered a political deviation, and retribution would be swift to follow anyone who objected. Thus, the monolithic structure of the Party is proved and remains intact.

3. Recruitment methods used by the Party cell are now very simple. Anyone, upon application for Party membership, will be considered, or the cell secretary may designate certain people to become members. These people who apply on their own initiative are thoroughly checked by the cell secretary, and the information obtained is then forwarded to the district or city committee for approval. After this, the person is then summoned before the cell secretary and either issued or denied a membership card. The new members are led to believe that they were accepted solely upon approval by the cell secretary, with no additional higher approval necessary. This is done to add more prestige to the position of cell secretary. Today, however, very few people apply for membership. Because of this, most of the new members within the cell are chosen by the cell secretary. To refuse such an invitation would not be safe and also valid reasons must be shown for not joining the Party; hence very few people have the courage to refuse. After the secretary has "invited" a person to join the cell, the procedure for his becoming a member is similar to that of a person applying directly for membership. From the above, it can easily be seen how the "monolithic" structure of the Party is maintained.

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